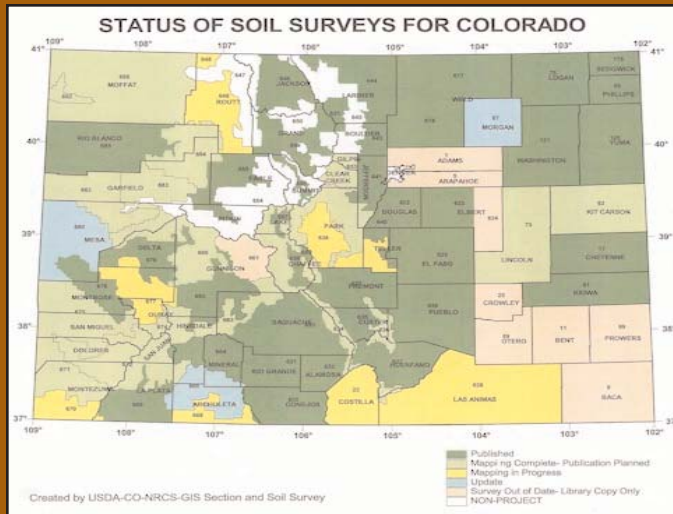


# Soil Survey



*Digitizing maps and developing databases are an integral part of today's soil survey process. They are completed concurrently with other activities in both initiating and maintaining soil survey projects. The soil survey geographic database consists of:*

- ✓ *Spatial data such as the digital soil survey map*
- ✓ *Attribute data such as the survey area map unit and record data from the National Soil Information System*
- ✓ *Association source information (metadata)*

Soil surveys have been an important resource tool for 100 years. At first, soil surveys were conducted to find areas in which to expand agriculture. Today, they are used to plan ways to protect soil and water from erosion, sedimentation, and pollution.

Federal, state, and local governments, private individuals, and businesses use soil information for:

- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Engineering
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Urban development
- ✓ Wetlands
- ✓ Wildlife habitat
- ✓ Farm Bill program eligibility and ranking criteria

Colorado encompasses 66,618,200 acres with approximately 63 percent in private ownership, 22 percent National Forest, and 12 percent U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The rest is divided between national parks, Native American, and other Federal land.

Soil surveys are available—published or in draft form—for about 95 percent of the state's private land and about 96 percent of the state's Federal land.

It is estimated that soil surveys on all privately owned land will be available by 2007. Approximately 250,000 acres remain to be mapped. During the past year, about 170,000 acres were surveyed. Field activities are going on in these survey areas: Morgan, Mesa, Routt, Costilla, Ridgway, Teller-Park, Las Animas, and Archuleta.

Soil surveys that were State Soil Survey Geographical Database (SSURGO) certified in 2005 include the following areas:

- ✓ Washington County Area
- ✓ Yuma County Area
- ✓ Cheyenne County Area
- ✓ Kiowa County Area
- ✓ Crowley County Area
- ✓ Otero County Area
- ✓ Grand County Area
- ✓ Teller County Area
- ✓ Ute Mountain Area (Indian Reservation)

Recent releases of Colorado soil surveys have included Animas-Dolores, Moffat County, and San Miguel areas. These surveys are available on CD and are on the web soil survey website at:

<http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soil/soil-surveys/soil-survey-program.html>